

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MOLINA AND ANTONOVICH

May 17, 2011

Cal-Learn is a Statewide program that assists pregnant and parenting teenagers enrolled in CalWORKs complete high school. Since 1994, Cal-Learn has provided services to over 54,000 Los Angeles County teens (ages 12 to 19) and their children. The program provides intensive case management, supportive services and financial incentives related to the teens' school attendance and performance. Virtually all of the children of Cal-Learn participants are ages 0 to 5.

Due to the State budget deficit, the State Legislature and the Governor have suspended the Cal-Learn program and all associated funding for FY 2011-12 only, with the exception of financial incentives. As a result, approximately 3,200 teens in Los Angeles County are scheduled to lose access to the intensive case management services they currently receive from the four Adolescent Family Life Providers (AFLP) who receive funding through contracts with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Some of these teens can be managed by DPSS staff, who will monitor the teens' school attendance; however, within the overall population, there is a substantial group of teens who are considered high-risk.

MOTION

Molina _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

The high-risk group consists of those teens most in danger of dropping out of school during the State's one-year suspension of funding for the Cal-Learn program. Continuing Cal-Learn services to this high-risk group will help ensure that the teens most in need continue to receive the help they need to finish high school—which is critically important to the future well-being of these teen parents and their young children. The continuation of services will also maintain an infrastructure to reengage the entire population in July 2012 when the program is scheduled to be reinstated under current State law.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a formal request to the First 5 Los Angeles Commission to consider bridge funding of \$2.9 million to partially address the FY 2011-12 suspension of state Cal-Learn funding, and allow the high-risk teens most in need of these services to continue receiving help, through a transfer of First 5 funding to DPSS and amendments to the current DPSS contracts with the AFLPs.

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